

pump failure. However, I've had great performance from Amid and Advantage Controls pumps."

**Melvin VanFosson, Gilroy, Calif.:** Melvin says his Ford 1710 tractor is his "worst buy." "I've had this tractor repaired six different times. The problem is that the hydraulic system leaks badly and runs completely dry in only about four hours. A Ford tractor mechanic says the company offers a kit to fix the problem, but he can't find any and I can't afford to buy another tractor. I'd like to hear from anyone who knows how to solve this problem. From what the mechanic told me, it's a common fault with this model."

**Gary Eddy, Chester, W.Va.:** He lists three Yamaha ATV's as his "worst buys": a 1999 600 Grizzly, 2000 600 Grizzly, and 2000 Kodiak 400. "These rigs all run too hot. The fan comes on like it's supposed to, but then they start running funny like the choke is on and pressure builds up in the gas tank. Another problem is that after a while the fuel gauges on top of the tanks became discolored and fog up. The dealer replaced the gauges, but that's all they would do to help out."

**Joe Grasso, Ancram, N.Y.:** A 2003 Ford F-150 XL pickup, equipped with a V-6 engine and automatic transmission, rates as Joe's "worst buy." "The engine's intake manifold leaks, and there's a knocking sound in the pickup's front end. Both front doors leak water onto the door sill and the rear window leaks, too. Also, the entire length of the tailgate is rusted. This pickup has only about 10,000 miles on it. The dealer can't seem to fix any of the problems."

**Pam Sparks, Queen City, Mo.:** "Our 1988 Stihl 028 chain saw equipped with an 18-in. bar is our best buy. We use it to cut firewood, drop thorn trees, and clear brush. It never fails to start and has required very little maintenance. All we have to do is keep the air filter clean and the gas tank full. This little jewel still has the original spark plug, and it fires right up on the first crank."

**Chuck Duffy, Solon, Iowa:** "My grandpa always talked about the 1932 Farmall F-30 tractor that he bought new. He sold it many years ago, and I always wondered whatever happened to it. One day I asked him who he sold it to and when he told me I started looking around for the owner. Finally I found him about 12 miles from my home and I'm now the fourth owner of this tractor. It's not in running condition. But you should have seen the look on my grandpa's face when the tractor came into our driveway loaded on a trailer, with the original 2-row mounted corn picker on it, which he also bought originally."

"My worst buy is a 1997 Dodge 1500 4-WD pickup which I bought used. I bought a 3-year, 30,000-mile warranty to go with it, and I'm glad I did because I've used every bit of the warranty and then some. After test driving the pickup at the dealer I told them the steering system was loose. They installed a new torsion bar in an attempt to solve the problem. However, one month later another torsion bar had to be installed, along with upper and lower ball joints on each side. Then, with about 1,500 miles left on the warranty, the steering system went bad again. This time it required a new \$1,700 steering box and still another torsion bar. At the time I was glad I bought the warranty. However, three days after the warranty expired the transmission went out. I'm still driving this pickup because no one else wants to buy it, and the dealer won't give me much for a trade. No more Dodge pickups for me."

**Don Melton, Shelly, N.C.:** "I use my 1984 Sears Craftsman 18 hp riding mower to mow 2 1/2 acres. It's a best buy. The only maintenance it needs is replacing the belts and idler

pulleys about every three years. It still mows like it was a new machine."

"My Ariens zero turn mower equipped with a 17 hp engine and 42-in. deck is my worst buy. Three belts had to be replaced within a three-week period. The mower came factory-equipped with 1/2-in. belts, which I replaced with heavier-duty 5/8-in. belts. Now this mower works perfect."

**Myron Lohman, Hazleton, Iowa:** "I like the electric hoist I bought from Harbor Freight Co. I use it in my shop all the time to lift 55-gal. barrels of oil which I use in my waste oil furnace."

**Charles Knesek, Corpus Christi, Texas:** Charles is impressed with his 2004 Ford F-150 Super Cab Lariat pickup. "This is my eighth new Ford pickup in 24 years, and I think it's the best one yet. All I have to do is change the oil. It runs smooth and quiet, and the 5.4-liter engine has a lot of power. It averages about 16 mpg."

"My Hauler J-93 from Kimball Products is a 4-wheel utility vehicle that leaves a lot to be desired. It's powered by a 16 hp engine and rides on large, knobby tires that look like the ones found on World War II Jeeps. It has a noisy transmission which had to be replaced twice by the factory. The transmission isn't quite as noisy now but the noise is still there. The factory won't do anything more to help. The brakes stick and I have to constantly readjust them, and the paint job is blistering on the hood and fenders. The company sent me

### "It has a noisy transmission which had to be replaced twice by the factory."

a 16-oz. can of spray paint. I did all the labor myself, with no financial help from the company."

**Eugene Weimerskirch, Coulee City, Wash.:** "It has the best design and performance of anything in its class," says Eugene, pleased with his Case 5800 30-ft. chisel plow. "This chisel plow does a great job of penetrating hard soil. The design of the shanks is excellent for clearing trash. The bottom end of the shank is slotted, which makes changing sweep points a much easier job."

**Lynn Dunlap, Jim Falls, Wis.:** Lynn added a Gear-Venders under/overdrive to his 1999 Dodge 2500 pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine and 5-speed transmission. He says it's his "best buy" (Gear Venders, Inc., ph 800 999-9555 or 619 562-0060; info@gearvenders.com; www.gearvenders.com). "The under/overdrive gives me gears right where I need them for pulling trailers. I use the pickup to pull a 22-ft. gooseneck stock trailer and a 26-ft. fifth wheel camper. Now this pickup does a good job considering it has a relatively small engine."

**Bill Welfley, Sr., New Philadelphia, Ohio:** "My 2003 Sears Craftsman gas-powered leaf blower is my worst buy. The head bolts and carburetor bolts kept working loose, causing it to quit running. It cost \$109 new, and the company wanted \$85 just to look at it. So we put LocTite on the threads, but the bolts still kept vibrating loose. This leaf blower is a piece of junk. Next time I'll buy a quality product from Stihl."

**James M. Farrak, Barton, Vt.:** "My 1996 International 4900 truck is my best buy. It has required only routine maintenance with no major problems."

"My 2000 GM 3500 1-ton pickup is my worst buy. It's equipped with a Vortec 350 engine which went out at about 60,000 miles. The fuel injector failed twice, causing the

## He's Happy With His Three Silver Stream Hoop Buildings

Roger Zummach of Hutchinson, Minn., recently called FARM SHOW to tell us he's happy with three different hoop-type Silver Stream buildings that he has put up. Two were built with the company's wood hoops and one has steel trusses (Silver Stream Shelters, Altona, Manitoba ph toll-free 877 547-4738 or 204 324-4592; www.silverstreamshelters.com).

Silver Stream's laminated wood "hoops" are covered by canvas like any other hoop-type building. The difference is that the buildings cost less and they make it easier to insulate the building or convert it into a more permanent structure. The wood frame also makes it easy to replace the canvas with metal siding, if desired.

The steel hoop buildings feature truss-type hoops made from sq. tubing rather than round, which the company says gives them added strength.

"These buildings are cost efficient and very versatile," says Zummach, who farms with Tim McCloud. "We did 80 percent of the labor ourselves. We had a contractor dig the holes and put in the concrete, and a carpenter square up each building. We did everything else. We used wooden planks, which we bought from a company that tears down old bridges, to put up sidewalls and to frame up the doors on all the buildings. It saved us about one third the cost of new lumber."

He put up the first building for livestock in 2001, a wood hoop model with 4-ft. 8-in. high concrete sidewalls. It measures 36 by 90 ft. and is 18 ft. high. It has two 12 by 10-ft. doors on one side and a 12 by 12-ft. door at one end. The other end of the building is closed off. There are three pens inside, each with an outdoor entry. One pen is for steers and bulls, one for heifers, and the third for calves.

"This was the first wood hoop building the company built with side dormers in it," says Zummach. "I like wood because I can quickly nail on additional partitions to the rafters or posts. There's no need to tap or weld anything. I decided to use concrete sidewalls instead of wood because concrete is much more durable than wood. I don't have to worry about accidentally breaking boards with my skid loader. It cost \$975 more to install concrete sidewalls than wood but it was worth it."

"Condensation hasn't been a problem because I usually keep the doors open so air can flow through. If I want I can use a roll-up tarp on the building's end door to keep snow from blowing in during the winter."

"I spent \$15,000. I considered buying a straight-sided conventional 60 by 124-ft. steel building but it would have cost about \$58,000."

He put up a machine shed with steel trusses

engine to go bad. Also, gas got into the oil as I was driving down the highway. Fortunately, I have an extended warranty on this vehicle."

**John Massingale, Wood, S. Dak.:** John likes his Drill Doctor bit sharpener. "We always had a lot of drill bits around our shop. Now we have sharp bits, whenever we need them."

**Tom Wallace, Jamestown, S.C.:** "My 2004 Kubota mower is a rugged piece of equipment. I bought it new last spring and as of late November it already had more than 1,000 hours on it. I use it with a Hayban trail mower that offsets to the side of the Kubota, resulting in an 84-in. wide cut."

"My 1997 Chevrolet S10 pickup is my



Roger Zummach put up this wood hoop livestock building with two doors on one side and a single door at one end. It measures 36 by 90 ft. and is 18 ft. high.



This shed with steel trusses measures 50 by 112 ft., with a 27-ft. high center. He keeps machinery in one half of the building and hay and straw in the other half.

in 2002. It measures 50 by 112 ft. with a 27-ft. high center and has 5 1/2-ft. sidewalls made from salvaged wooden bridge planks. It's open at one end, with a 26 by 16-ft. door at the other end. There's a 12 by 12-ft. dormer-type door on one side. "I keep machinery in one half of the building and hay and straw in the other half. The side door is big enough that I can drive a tractor and wagon through it and load hay rides. It's really handy. In fact, I use the side door more than I use the end door."

"I made the end door 16 ft. high, instead of the usual 14 ft., so the extensions on my combine's grain tank would fit through it. I like having one end of the building open because it lets me drive in without having to worry about running into posts or door columns. I paid \$25,000 total to put up this building."

Zummach and McCloud put up what they call their "toy shed" in 2003. It's a wood hoop structure that measures 30 by 72 ft. with a 16-ft. high center and 3-ft. sidewalls made from wooden bridge planks. One end is closed off. "My partner and I use this building to keep snowmobiles, boats, camper trailers, boats, and other toys. My partner was going to add two more stalls onto his double car garage which would've cost him about \$9,000. Silver Stream sells this building without sidewalls for \$3,200. Our total cost was \$5,500."

Zummach says calls and visitors are welcome.

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worst buy. The engine lacks power and had to be repaired three times."

**Daniel H. Wilson, Kerrville, Texas:** Daniel likes his 2004 Nissan Titan 4-WD offroad pickup equipped with a 305 hp engine. "I'm really impressed with its power and towing capability. It's a big improvement over my old 1995 GM 2500 4-WD pickup."

**Mark Powers, East Pausstine, Ohio:** "I bought my 1993 Volvo 940 car used with about 216,000 miles. It now has more than 250,000 miles but still runs perfect. Over the years I've bought many high mileage Volvo cars and have found that you can't wear them out. Unfortunately, I haven't had the same

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